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PERF Daily Clips - May 24, 2019

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OPIOIDS

Washington Post: Finding fentanyl

While the Trump administration has made the opioid epidemic a priority, people in communities across the country continue to die in record numbers from fentanyl, and health officials are struggling to provide treatment for tens of thousands more.

President Trump has taken a number of steps to confront the crisis, stem the flow of fentanyl into the country from China and Mexico, and step up prosecutions of traffickers. Congress also has increased spending on drug treatment.

But health policy experts say drug treatment funding is not nearly enough, and the administration's response was hobbled by the failure to appoint a drug czar in its chaotic first year and confusion over who was in charge of drug policy. The depth of the problem continues to overwhelm the government's response, and the administration has yet to produce a comprehensive strategy that is legally required by Congress.

John P. Walters, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy during the George W. Bush administration, said that after two years and a presidential commission to study the problem, the Trump administration is still struggling to confront the deadliest drug crisis in U.S. history and is not dedicating nearly enough federal resources.

PRIVACY ISSUES

Reuters: Amazon shareholders reject facial recognition ban as concern grows in U.S. Congress

Amazon.com Inc said shareholders rejected proposals to curb and audit its facial recognition service on Wednesday, just as members of Congress indicated there was bipartisan support to one day regulate the technology.

In the past year Amazon has found itself at the center of a growing debate over the use of facial recognition by governments, with critics warning of false matches and arrests and proponents arguing it keeps the public safe. Law enforcement in Oregon and Florida have used Amazon's face and image ID service, known as Rekognition.

A key congressional committee also met on Wednesday in Washington, D.C., to discuss the civil rights impact of all facial recognition technology, not only Amazon's.

Responding to the shareholder vote, Democratic U.S. Representative Jimmy Gomez said, "that just means that it's more important that Congress acts."

Republican members of the committee expressed concern about U.S. citizens having their rights violated and their information shared with the likes of the FBI without elected officials' oversight. A second hearing on the topic is scheduled for June 4.

RECRUITING

Charlotte Observer: Charlotte spent millions for pay raises, but chief says CMPD still can't fill openings

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney said Wednesday that his department is struggling to recruit new officers despite the millions of dollars the city has put toward hiring and pay raises.

Speaking at a luncheon for the Hood Hargett Breakfast Club, Putney told the crowd a strong economy has hampered CMPD's ability to attract new officers.

"We had a boatload of people coming in to this work" in 2008 in the midst of the Great Recession, Putney said.

Putney said that negative publicity surrounding police work has also contributed to the problem.

In 2016, the City Council gave the department nearly $6 million, enough to hire 125 new officers.

But CMPD hasn't filled any of the jobs because the department couldn't replace all of the people who were resigning or retiring, according to an Observer report in March.

CRIME STRATEGY

New York Daily News: NYPD recipe for summer crime - almost 300 cops leaving desk duty for street work

The NYPD is pulling 287 cops from administrative work and assigning them to fight crime in hot spots around the city, police said Wednesday

That's about 70 cops more than last year, Chief of Department Terence Monahan said, noting the initiative will go three weeks longer than last year, beginning Thursday and ending Sept. 6.

The program, Summer All-Out, has been effective each of the past four years in driving down crime during the hot weather months when crime tends to spike, Monahan said.

Last year, for instance, there were 11 fewer shootings and 8 fewer murders in the areas where All-Out cops were assigned, compared to 2017.

GUN VIOLENCE

Florida Times-Union: New Gun Intelligence Center adds to Jacksonville's crime-fighting arsenal

In what's being called a game changer for law enforcement, officials unveiled the new Crime Gun Intelligence Center at the State Attorney's Office in Jacksonville.

The City Council approved allotted $1 million into the 2017-18 city budget for the center that will combine local, state and federal resources.

It is an interagency collaboration focused on faster collection, management and analysis of crime gun evidence, such as shell casings, in an effort to identify suspects.

Investigators incorporate the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives National Tracing Center, National Integrated Ballistic Information Network and ShotSpotter technology to "connect the dots" in cases. It also is part of the Comprehensive Gang Reduction Strategy announced by the mayor, state attorney and sheriff in January.

GUN REGULATIONS

Chicago Tribune: More than 34,000 Illinoisans have lost their right to own a gun. Nearly 80% may still be armed.

As many as 30,000 guns may still be in the possession of Illinois residents deemed too dangerous to have them, according to a Tribune investigation.

In an analysis of data released for the first time, the Tribune found the state has repeatedly failed to ensure that people surrender their weapons and gun permits after their Firearm Owner's Identification cards are revoked, resulting in the breakdown of a system put in place to deter gun violence.

In all, nearly 27,000 Illinois residents over the past four years have not informed authorities what they did with their guns after state police stripped their licenses, according to the analysis. That means law enforcement has no idea whether 78% of revoked cardholders since 2015 still possess guns.

The uncertainty has created a public safety risk that has been compounded for decades by

antiquated policies and limited law-enforcement resources.

OFFICER HEROES

CNN: Trump honors 14 public safety officers with the Medal of Valor

President Donald Trump honored 14 public safety officers for their acts of heroism with the Medal of Valor on Wednesday at the White House, with honorees including an Ohio State University officer who thwarted an act of terrorism and a fallen Dallas officer killed during a mass shooting at a police protest march.

The award is the highest national honor given to US public safety officers, such as law enforcement and firefighters, "for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty," according to legislation that instituted the award. The distinction is similar to the Presidential Medal of Honor, which applies to military personnel.

CANADA

Winnipeg Sun: Manitoba invests in better policing: Justice Minister

The province is injecting $2.7 million in its policing and public safety strategy, a new plan aimed at curbing crime in Manitoba announced by Justice Minister Cliff Cullen on Thursday.

The money, Cullen said from the Manitoba Legislature, is to help address challenges within the criminal justice system and ensure that families feel safe in their homes and communities.

The influx of funds will be focused on eight key areas, Cullen said.

Those eight areas include a new collaborative intelligence gathering system between Winnipeg and Brandon police, the RCMP and Manitoba Justice.

Cullen said this model will centralize data and intelligence in the province.

OVERSIGHT

Raleigh (NC) News & Observer: Raleigh police chief opposes citizen-led police oversight board

Raleigh Police Chief Cassandra Deck-Brown does not think a citizen-led board should be able to discipline local police officers.

Citizens and activist groups, including Raleigh Police Accountability Community Taskforce, have for years asked for additional police oversight after fatal shootings and other incidents.

Raleigh leaders asked staff what, if anything, the city could do. City staff members gave a report at a meeting Tuesday where Deck-Brown expressed her concern.

"The citizens review board won't be the be-all, end-all," she said.

"Part of that is simply because police, like all of you and everyone else here, we are human," she said. "I must ask when does performance become so restricted that officers can simply not do their jobs? They are the ones running toward danger at the risk of their own lives."

TECHNOLOGY

WGBH Boston: Federal judge rules people can secretly record police in public spaces

A federal judge ordered the Boston Police Department and the Suffolk County District Attorney to notify their officers and prosecutors that people have the right to secretly record police, as long as the police are on-duty and in public.

Chief Judge Patti B. Saris' declaratory judgment Wednesday serves to enforce a decision from last December, when she ruled it was unconstitutional for police to arrest people for secretly recording government officials.

POLICE EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Roll Call: Exiting Capitol Police chief honored by Pelosi, McCarthy

After more than three decades on the force, Capitol Police Chief Matthew Verderosa received recognition and a fond farewell from Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy on the House floor Wednesday.

Verderosa announced on May 1 that he will retire from the force on May 31, after a 34-year career in law enforcement and three years leading the force.

Pelosi and McCarthy both referenced his critical role leading the department during and after the shooting at a Republican baseball team practice in 2017. The incident left then-House Majority Whip Steve Scalise seriously injured, in addition to Crystal Griner and David Bailey, Capitol Police officers on Scalise's security detail and two others.

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